

common names, the colors, and the flowering season, stand out in heavy-faced type, with the Latin names in italics. The descriptions are brief, and, so far as is consistent with accuracy, are freed from technicalities. With the descriptions are incorporated a variety of notes, among which those on the relations of the plants to insects present a novel and suggestive feature. This matter is emphasized in the introduction, and by two introductory plates that show the commoner butterflies, bees, and flies concerned in the cross-pollination of flowers. A commonly neglected line of observation is thus constantly kept before the student.

The illustrations of species are the most striking and useful feature of the book. Of these there are over four hundred—a few being colored. The pen and ink studies, as the author calls them, show a charming grace and facility of drawing; but more than this they most happily present the characteristic look of the living plant. The very droop of the leaves, the turn of the stem, the familiar pose of the plant, are admirably caught and preserved. After studying them one can only regret that every plant mentioned in the text can not have had the same accurate, sympathetic interpretation. But in a field book, or pocket manual, space is limited. We find, therefore, that many plants are omitted altogether. The common, the conspicuous species, that may be met from Maine to Virginia are there—that is to say, the common flowers. Trees, shrubs, except a few, and also grasses and sedges are missing—and obviously there is no room for them. By its title, the book excludes them.

A captious reviewer, with dogmatic convictions on matters of botanical controversy, or a stickler for scientific form and precision might be inclined to be severe with certain things about this book—for it is a popular book. For such a critic, however, the book is not intended. Others will find in it the help they seek, and something more.

A NEW LOCAL FLORA.—Messrs. Charles Humphrey Bissell and Luman Andrews have just issued a Flora of the Town of Southington, Connecticut and its Vicinity.¹ The work, which is an excellently printed octavo pamphlet of more than a hundred pages, is

¹ Connecticut School Document No. 15, published by the State Board of Education, 1902.

an annotated list of the fern and seed plants, which grow without cultivation in the area covered. Under each species and variety the scientific name is followed by a careful statement of the peculiar habitat, abundance, time of flowering, and finally the citation of one or more numbered herbarium specimens. Common names, notes as to habit, and a judicious synonymy are added in many cases. Statistical summaries, including a comparative table showing the numerical relation of the flora of Southington to that of Vermont, appear at the end, together with a map and good index. Although the territory covered contains but thirty-six square miles, no less than twelve hundred and one plants are enumerated. The authors show themselves familiar with the latest taxonomic work in America and treat with excellent discrimination the recently proposed species which happen to come within their limits. The authors' "invariable rule has been to admit no name that has not an extant specimen back of it." The work throughout shows exceptional care in arrangement, typography, and proof-reading. It is safe to say that no more critically prepared flora of so limited an area has appeared in America. While the authors have scrupulously avoided making new combinations, they have introduced the following herbarium names, to which it may be well to direct attention: *Aster macrophyllus*, var. *ianthinus*, Fernald (*A. ianthinus*, Burgess), and *Cirsium altissimum*, var. *discolor*, Fernald (*Carduus discolor*, Nutt.).

PRELIMINARY LISTS OF NEW ENGLAND PLANTS,—IX.

POLYGONACEAE.¹

WM. P. RICH.

[The sign + indicates that a herbarium specimen has been seen ; the sign — that a printed record has been found.]

	Me.	N. H.	Vt.	Mass.	R. I.	Conn.
Fagopyrum esculentum, Moench.	+	+	+	+	+	+
“ tataricum, Gaertn.	+	+	+	+		
Oxyria digyna, Hill.		+				

¹ Printed in RHODORA as supplementary material.